

ing it with funds. But your committee regret that success has not attended these benevolent efforts of their fellow-citizens as they seem to have merited, and they entertain the fear that no better success will hereafter attend them until a general system of public education shall be established and enforced by the Legislature.

This general system must include a gradation of schools, regularly supporting each other from the one in which the first rudiments of education are taught to that in which the highest branches of the sciences are cultivated. It is to the first schools in this gradation that your committee beg leave to draw the attention of the Legislature at this time, because in them will be taught the learning indispensable to all, reading, writing and arithmetic. These schools must be scattered over every section of the State, for in them education must be commenced and in them it will terminate as to more than one-half of the community. These schools will be the most difficult in their organization and the most expensive to the State; but they will be the most useful, inasmuch as all the citizens of the State will be taught in them, and many of these children are destined never to be taught in any other. Here their education will begin and end. With the learning which they here acquire they will pass into active life and take rank with their fellow-citizens. It is important, therefore, that in these schools the principles of morality and religion should be inculcated and habits of subordination and obedience formed. One of the greatest blessings which the State can confer upon her children is to instil into their minds at an early period moral and religious truths, the influence of which will be felt through life. It is a subject of deep regret that at this time in North Carolina the early education of youth is left in a great measure to chance. Thousands of unfortunate children are growing up in perfect ignorance of their moral and religious duties. Their parents, equally unfortunate, know not how to instruct them, and have not the opportunity or ability of placing them under the care of those who could give them in-